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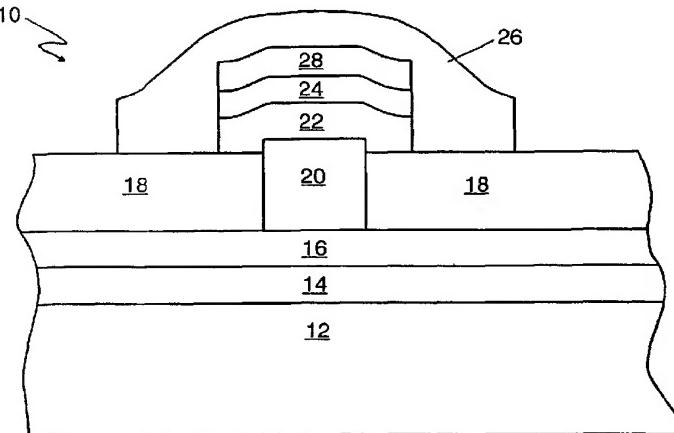
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METAL-TO-METAL ANTIFUSE EMPLOYING CARBON-CONTAINING ANTIFUSE MATERIAL



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(57) Abstract: A metal-to-metal antifuse (22) is disposed between two metal interconnect layers in an integrated circuit. An insulating layer (18) is disposed above a lower metal interconnect layer (16). The insulating layer includes a via formed therethrough containing a tungsten plug (20) in electrical contact with the lower metal interconnect layer. The tungsten plug forms a lower electrode of the antifuse. The upper surface of the tungsten plug is planarized with the upper surface of the insulating layer. In a first embodiment, an antifuse material layer (22) comprising amorphous carbon, amorphous carbon doped with hydrogen or fluorine, or amorphous silicon carbide is disposed above the upper surface of the tungsten plug. A layer of a barrier metal (24) disposed over the antifuse material layer forms an upper electrode of the antifuse. An oxide (28) or tungsten hard mask provides high etch selectivity and the possibility to etch barrier metals without affecting the dielectric constant value and mechanical properties of the antifuse material. In a second embodiment, a layer of barrier material is disposed between the top surface of the tungsten plug and the antifuse material layer. An adhesion-promoting layer may be used where amorphous carbon is used as the antifuse material layer.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H01L 29/00

US CL : 257/530

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 257/530, 529, 50, 76

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
IEEE Transactions

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	LIU et al, A New Metal-to-Metal Antifuse with Amorphous Carbon," IEEE Electr., Device Lett., Vol. 19, No. 9, September 1998, pages 317-319.	1-20, 24-33
Y,P	US 2002/0100907 A1 (WANG) 01 August 2002 (01.08.2002), pages 1-3.	1-33
Y	US 5,181,096 A (FOROUHI) 19 January 1993 (19.01.1993), column 7, lines 61-67; column 8, lines 1-6, 56-59.	21, 23, 32
Y	US 6,114,714 A (GANGOPADHYAY) 05 September 2000 (05.09.2000), column 4, lines 50-67.	2, 3, 14, 30
Y	US 5,365,104 A (GODINHO et al) 15 November 1994 (15.11.1994), column 5, lines 60-65.	4, 24

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

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search terms: antifuse, insulating layers, tungsten plug, amorphous carbon, silicon carbide, barrier layers